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SENATE

{ REPORT
No. 1907

FLORA FUNG WAH MIU WONG

JUNE 27, 1952.—Ordered to be printed

Mr. McCARRAN, from the Committee on the Judiciary, submitted the following

REPORT

[To accompany H. R. 1814]

The Committee on the Judiciary, to which was referred the bill (H. R. 1814) for the relief of Flora Fung Wah Miu Wong, having considered the same, reports favorably thereon without amendment and recommends that the bill do pass.

PURPOSE OF THE BILL

The purpose of the bill is to grant to the Chinese widow of a United States citizen and the mother of two United States citizen children the status of a nonquota immigrant.

STATEMENT OF FACTS

The beneficiary of the bill was born in Japan on July 8, 1912, and is of the Chinese race. She was married to a United States citizen in 1936 and her husband died in 1939. Of the marriage two children were born and the children have been admitted to Honolulu as citizens of the United States. If her husband were not deceased the beneficiary of the bill would be entitled to nonquota status.

A letter dated August 14, 1951, to the chairman of the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives from the Deputy Attorney General with reference to the case reads as follows:

AUGUST 14, 1951.

Hon. EMANUEL CELLER,
*Chairman, Committee on the Judiciary,
 House of Representatives, Washington, D. C.*

* MY DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: This is in response to your request for the views of the Department of Justice relative to the bill (H. R. 1814) for the relief of Flora Fung Wah Miu Wong, an alien.

The bill would provide that Flora Fung Wah Miu Wong, who would be entitled to nonquota immigration status but for the death of her United States citizen husband, shall, if otherwise admissible to the United States under the immigration laws, be deemed to be a nonquota immigrant.

The files of the Immigration and Naturalization Service of this Department disclose that Mrs. Wong was born in Japan on July 8, 1912, and is of the Chinese race. She is the widow of Wong Jan-Jin (Jim), a United States citizen, who died at Hong Kong on July 14, 1939, and to whom Mrs. Wong was married on June 9, 1936, in Canton City, China. She is presently residing in Hong Kong, China. Her two children, Theodore Tye Ching Wong and Queenie Kwan-Yee Wong, were born in Hong Kong on April 27, 1938, and on March 1, 1937, respectively. They entered the United States at Honolulu, Territory of Hawaii, and were admitted as citizens of the United States on September 4, 1947. It appears in the record that Mrs. Wong's deceased husband, accompanied by his adoptive parents, departed from the United States at the port of Honolulu on May 2, 1927.

According to the archives of the bureau of vital statistics, board of health, Territory of Hawaii, Mr. Wong was born to Kow Kau and Wong Shee, on August 30, 1914, and records in the probate court, Territory of Hawaii, dated October 15, 1914, show that he was adopted by Wong Law Kwai and Wong Shee on that date. The name of Mrs. Wong's parents is unknown, but she has a brother residing in Yokohama, Japan, and her husband's brother, Mr. Hung Yung Kau, who is the assistant manager of a funeral parlor in Honolulu is her sponsor. He has stated that he is supporting his brother's widow in Hong Kong, where she is unemployed except for a small amount of needlework which she does, and that he is able and willing to support her in the event she is permitted to enter the United States. He also stated that he would post a public charge bond in the amount of \$1,000, if required to do so.

The Chinese racial quota to which Mrs. Wong is chargeable is oversubscribed and a quota immigration visa is not readily obtainable. In this respect, her case is similar to those of many other aliens who have never been in this country and desire to enter the United States for permanent residence but are unable to do so because of the oversubscribed condition of the quotas to which they are chargeable. In the absence of special legislation, she will have to wait her turn to enter this country for permanent residence to join her minor citizen children. The general immigration laws do not grant a preference status in the issuance of immigration visas to the widows of American citizens. It may be noted that under these laws, even the Chinese alien minor unmarried children of United States citizens are not granted any preference in the issuance of an immigration visa. The question of whether any preference in the issuance of an immigration visa to the widow of a United States citizen should be granted is one which should be resolved, if at all, by general legislation, and not by a series of private bills.

Accordingly, the Department of Justice is unable to recommend the enactment of this bill.

Yours sincerely,

PEYTON FORD,
Deputy Attorney General.

Delegate Joseph R. Farrington, the author of the bill, submitted to a subcommittee of the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives the following statement:

STATEMENT OF J. R. FARRINGTON, DELEGATE TO CONGRESS FROM HAWAII, TO SUBCOMMITTEE NO. 1 OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY, RE H. R. 1814, FOR THE RELIEF OF FLORA FUNG WAH MIU WONG

Mr. Chairman, Mrs. Flora Fung Wah Miu Wong was born in Japan on July 8, 1912, and is of the Chinese race. She is the widow of Wong Yan-Jin (Jim), a United States citizen, who died at Hong Kong on July 14, 1939. They were married on June 9, 1936, in Canton City, China. She presently resides in Hong Kong, China.

Two children were born of this marriage, Theodore Tye Ching Wong on April 27, 1938, and Queenie Kwan-Yee Wong, on March 1, 1937. They were admitted to the Territory of Hawaii as citizens of the United States on September 4, 1947, and now reside with their father's brother and their uncle, Mr. Hung Yung Kau in Honolulu. In the attached report on H. R. 1814, which was submitted by the Department of Justice on August 14, 1951, Mr. Hung Yung Kau has stated that he is supporting his brother's widow in Hong Kong, where she is unemployed except for a small amount of needlework which she does, and that he is able and willing to support her in the event she is permitted to enter the United States. He also stated that he would post a public charge bond in the amount of \$1,000, if required to do so.

It is unfortunate indeed that Mr. Wong passed away before he could return to the United States with his family.

Since the two youngsters have been separated from their mother it is only natural that their longing for her has grown to an intensity that is almost tragic. I am attaching the copy of a letter I have just received, which is self-explanatory. I am sure the purposes of the present immigration laws do not intend to enforce the separation of families, especially when there is but one parent remaining to guide two young children, who have evidenced their desire to retain their American citizenship by coming to this country, through their early years. Her presence would do much to mold them into good, healthy individuals and citizens of the United States.

In view of the very appealing circumstances in this case it is hoped you will find it possible to recommend the enactment of H. R. 1814, in order to permit Flora Fung Wah Miu Wong and her children to be reunited in the happiness and contentment of our country.

In addition, Delegate Farrington submitted the following letter:

HONOLULU, HAWAII, March 20, 1952.

The Honorable JOSEPH R. FARRINGTON,
*Delegate to Congress from Hawaii,
House Office Building, Washington, D. C.*

DEAR DELEGATE FARRINGTON: Thank you for your letter of March 6 informing me that H. R. 1814 is now pending before the House Judiciary Subcommittee on Immigration.

I have again discussed this matter with Mr. Hun Young Kau, the uncle of the two children of Mrs. Flora Fung Wah Miu Wong, with whom the children are presently living. There is little more to say as to the hardship which will result from denying Mrs. Flora Wong the privilege of joining her American-citizen children in Hawaii. These matters had already been touched upon in my letter to you dated July 19, 1950, stating that the two children have never had the occasion for a reunion with their mother since their coming to Hawaii in 1947. They have continued their correspondence with their mother during this period of time and it is a sorry thing that the children, though they may write to their mother may not see their mother for a long time, if at all. The children had started their correspondence with their mother right after they arrived in Hawaii by writing in Chinese. At this time they have been very much Americanized and are able to write and express their ideas in the English language, so their letters to their mother are largely in English. These children came to Hawaii with absolutely no knowledge of English. When they arrived here, Queenie, the girl, was about 10 years old, and Theodore, the boy, was about 9 years old. They started going to American schools here in grades lower than that which is normal for their ages. They have applied themselves so diligently and have shown their intelligence so well that they have skipped several grades and now are in grades which are normal and commensurate with their ages. Queenie is in the ninth grade and Theodore is in the eighth grade at this time. I am sure that these young American citizens, Queenie and Theodore, would turn out to be good American citizens. And I am sure that their mother, if allowed to come to Hawaii to join her children, would show equal powers of adaptation as have been shown by her children.

If Congress does not pass H. R. 1814 to allow Mrs. Flora Wong to join her children in Hawaii, I see no possibility of her ever coming to Hawaii. This means that not only have the children been orphaned by the death of their father but also will be orphaned by the laws of the United States preventing their getting the care and attention of their mother. I am sure that the policy and purpose of

